REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 21, 2005. Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were rejected. In order to advance and expedite the prosecution of the present Application, Applicant amends Claims 1, 7, 10 and 17. Thus, Claims 1-20 remain pending in the Application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

In the Office Action, the following actions were taken or matters were raised:

SECTION 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-6 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,487,666 issued to Shanklin (hereinafter *"Shanklin"*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Of the rejected claims, Claims 1 and 17 are independent. Applicant respectfully submits that *Shanklin* does not disclose or even suggest each and every limitation of amended independent Claims 1 and 17. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that *Shanklin* does not disclose or even suggest "utilizing parametric information to select a first rule set from a plurality of rules sets, the first rule set parametrically related to the packet" as recited by Claim 1. In the Office Action, with respect to Claim 11, the Examiner appears to assert that *Shanklin* discloses using parametric information (Office Action, page 7). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the Examiner refers to column 3, lines 54-60, of *Shanklin* which recites:

> Sensor 11 captures network data, and parses each packet before signature analysis occurs. Various capabilities of sensor 11 to support signature analysis include, but are not limited to, checksum verification, hop count checking, IP option checking, MTU checking for maximum packet size, IP fragment reassembly, TCP stream reassembly, as well as pattern matching.

Thus, the portion of *Shanklin* referred to by the Examiner appears to be directed solely to types of signature analysis instead of "utilizing parametric information to select a first rule set" to compare with a packet where the rule set is selected based on the "first rule set [being] parametrically related to the packet" as recited by Claim 1. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that *Shanklin* does not anticipate amended Claim 1.

Independent Claim 17, as amended, recites "reading a data packet" and "utilizing parametric information to select a set of a plurality of signature files from a plurality of sets of signature files, the selected set parametrically related to the data packet" (emphasis added). At least for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that *Shanklin* also does not anticipate amended Claim 17.

Claims 2-6 and 18-20 that depend respectively from independent Claims 1 and 17 are also not anticipated by *Shanklin* at least because they incorporate the limitations of respective Claims 1 and 17 and also add additional elements that further distinguish *Shanklin*. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 17, and Claims 2-6 and 18-20 that depend respectively therefrom, be withdrawn.

SECTION 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 7-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shanklin*. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shanklin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,279,113 issued to Vaidya (hereinafter *"Vaidya"*). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Of the rejected claims, Claim 7 is independent. Applicant respectfully submits that *Shanklin* does not disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of amended Claim 7. For example, as discussed above in connection with independent Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that *Shanklin* does not disclose, teach or suggest an "associative process engine operable to utilize parametric information to select the signature file from a plurality of signature files, the signature

file parametrically related to a data packet" as recited by amended Claim 7 (emphasis added). Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 7 is patentable over the *Shanklin* reference.
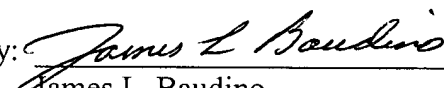
Claims 8-16 depend from independent Claim 7. For at least the reasons discussed above, independent Claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that *Vaidya* does not appear to remedy, nor did the Examiner rely on *Vaidya* to remedy, at least the deficiencies of *Shanklin* discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 7-16 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

No fee is believed due with this Response. If, however, Applicant has overlooked the need for any fee due with this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company.

Respectfully submitted,

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